

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1-7 and 9-30 are canceled. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these claims in subsequent applications that claim priority to the present application. Claim 8 is rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1.

Specification

Examiner requested that the status of the patent applications that are cross-referenced in the specification be updated. Appropriate corrections have been made.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. By this amendment, claim 8 is rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1. Applicant submits that claim 8 is now in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11, 14, 16-23, and 25-30 were provisionally rejected under § 101 for double patenting of the same invention as claimed in co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/329,285. Claims 25-29 were rejected under § 101 for double patenting the same invention as claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,708,064 (Rezai). Claims 1, 3, 4, 12-18, 20, 21, and 24 were rejected on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting of the same invention claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,708,064 (Rezai). All the double patenting rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-7 and 9-30.

Rejections Under § 112

Claims 15 and 25-30 were rejected under § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. These rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-7 and 9-30.

Rejections Under § 102

Claims 1-5, 9-11, 14-20, 23, 25, and 30 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 6,066,163 (John) and 6,463,328 (John). These rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-7 and 9-30.


CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative to discuss any issue that would expedite allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600 (Kenyon & Kenyon LLP).

Respectfully submitted,

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